
From: pam norton **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:29 AM
To: 404Assumption-FL
Subject: Deny Florida's Application to Takeover CWA Section 404 Wetland Permitting

Dear Mr. Kelly Laycock,

Florida's economy relies on its abundant wetlands and healthy ecosystems. Outdoor wildlife-related tourism employs one out of every five people and accounts for \$3 billion in annual revenue in Lee County alone. The citizens of Florida rely on wetlands for clean water, wildlife habitat and storm protection. It is for this reason that we must retain the robust science-based federal wetland permit review process to protect Florida's wetlands and water quality.

"Streamlining" the wetland permitting process as requested by the state, without a more complete understanding of the cumulative impacts of wetland loss, would be catastrophic for the future of Florida's already struggling ecosystems.

I strongly urge you to reject the state's application for assumption of the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 program authority until a time when the citizens of Florida can be assured that our water quality and our wildlife will not suffer from an expedited wetland permitting process.

Thank you for opportunity to share these comments during this critical process.

Regards,
pam norton

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